

SEMI - ANNUAL REPORT¹

CRIME IN NORTH CAROLINA - 1998

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

October 1998

The number of Crime Index offenses reported by North Carolina law enforcement agencies during the first six months of 1998 decreased 3 percent compared to the same period last year. This 3 percent decrease was equally reflected in both suburban and rural areas of North Carolina.

The number of violent Index offenses (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) decreased 4 percent statewide. Individually, murder went down 3 percent, rape remained unchanged, robbery dropped 9 percent and aggravated assault decreased 2 percent.

Property crimes (burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft) as a group went down 3 percent during the first 6 months of 1998. While burglary showed no change, larceny decreased 4 percent and motor vehicle theft went down 3 percent. Arson, a property crime not included with the other Index offenses, dropped 20 percent.

The number of juveniles under the age of 18 arrested for Crime Index offenses increased 2 percent during the first 6 months of 1998 compared to a 1 percent decrease in all arrests. Youths arrested under 18 for violent crime decreased 9 percent, while violent crime arrests for all ages went down 1 percent.

The number of North Carolina law enforcement officers assaulted decreased 12 percent. No officers were feloniously killed during the first 6 months of 1997 and 1998.

TABLE 1 - CRIME INDEX BY POPULATION GROUP

Percent change January - June 1998 over 1997, offenses known to the police.

Population Groups and Areas ²	No. of Depts.	Total Index ³	Vio- lent	Prop- erty	Mur- der	Rape	Rob- bery	Agg. Assault	Bur- glary	Lar- ceny	MVT	Arson ³
Core Cities	14	-3	-8	-2	-5	-4	-10	-7	+5	-4	-7	-28
Suburban Cities	114	+1	-2	+1	+4	+10	-10	0	+1	+1	+3	-22
Suburban Counties	32	-4	+3	-5	+13	+3	+5	+3	-4	-6	-2	-23
Suburban Areas	160	-3	-5	-2	+1	-1	-9	-4	+1	-3	-5	-26
Rural Centers	17	-5	-4	-5	-28	+15	-23	+5	-1	-7	-2	-25
Rural Cities	158	-1	-7	-1	-65 ⁵	+18	-5	-8	+1	-1	-7	-18
Rural Counties	63	-4	+3	-4	+19	-7	-5	+5	-5	-5	+7	+4
Rural Areas	238	-3	-1	-4	-9	+3	-13	+2	-3	-4	+2	-7
Other Agencies⁴	70	-8	-23	-8	NA	0 ⁵	+14 ⁵	-31	-3	-7	-31	-20 ⁵
State Total	468	-3	-4	-3	-3	0	-9	-2	0	-4	-3	-20

TABLE 2 - CRIME INDEX TRENDS

Percent change 1994 - 1998, each year over previous year, January - June.

Years	Total Index ³	Vio- lent	Prop- erty	Mur- der	Rape	Rob- bery	Agg. Assault	Bur- glary	Lar- ceny	MVT	Arson ³
1994/1995	+3	+1	+4	-16	-4	+1	+2	-1	+6	+4	-11
1995/1996	+1	-5	+1	-7	+4	-6	-6	-3	+2	+12	+11
1996/1997	+2	+7	+1	+1	0	+12	+5	+1	+1	+2	-2
1997/1998	-3	-4	-3	-3	0	-9	-2	0	-4	-3	-20

¹Statistics presented in this report are an initial indication of crime known to law enforcement in North Carolina for the first six months of 1998 and are based on the volume of crime reported by comparable months. Finalized figures will be available in the initial report entitled *Crime in North Carolina - 1998*.

²See back page for explanation of Population Groups and Areas.

³The number of reported arsons has not been included in the total Crime Index. See back page for offense definitions.

⁴Includes state law enforcement, campus police, state parks, airport police and ABC agencies.

⁵Totals for either current and/or previous year contain 16 or less offenses.

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TABLE 3 - CRIME INDEX BY TYPE

Percent change January - June 1998 over 1997, offenses known to police.

% Change		% Change	
Murder	-3	Aggravated Assault	-2
Rape	0	Larceny/Theft	-4
Robbery	-9	Pocket-Picking	-10
Highways	-15	Purse-Snatching	-5
Commercial House	-5	Shoplifting	-9
Gas/Service Station	-6	From Motor Vehicles	-4
Convenience Store	-16	MV Parts & Accessories	-1
Residence	-14	Bicycles	-8
Bank	+42	From Buildings	-3
Miscellaneous	+1	Coin Machines	+7
		All Other	-2
Burglary	0	MV Theft	-3
Residence Total	-1	Automobiles	-3
Night	+2	Trucks/Buses	-7
Day	-2	Other Vehicles	-2
Unknown Time	-1		
Non-Residence Total	+1	Arson	-20
Night	+2	Structural Property	-14
Day	+8	Mobile Property	-37
Unknown Time	0	All Other (Crops, Timber)	-45

TABLE 4 - INDEX OFFENSE ARRESTS - ALL AGES

Percent change January - June 1998 over 1997, arrests made by police.

Area	Total Index ¹	Vio-lent	Prop-erty	Mur-der	Rape	Rob-bery	Agg. Assault	Bur-glary	Lar-ceny	MVT	Arson ¹
Suburban	+1	+2	+1	+14	+10	+2	+1	+5	0	-6	-27
Rural	+4	-5	-3	-8	-5	-8	-5	+2	-5	-15	-43
State Total	-1	-1	-1	+5	+8	-1	-1	+4	-2	-8	-33

TABLE 5 - INDEX OFFENSE ARRESTS - UNDER 18

Percent change January - June 1998 over 1997, arrests under 18 made by police.

Area	Total Index ¹	Vio-lent	Prop-erty	Mur-der	Rape	Rob-bery	Agg. Assault	Bur-glary	Lar-ceny	MVT	Arson ¹
Suburban	+5	-9	+9	-6 ²	-20	-22	-3	+7	+10	+7	-32
Rural	-6	-8	-6	+13 ³	+7 ²	-13	-8	+4	-9	-40	-50
State Total	+2	-9	+4	0	-11	-20	-4	+6	+4	-2	-37

TABLE 6 - LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSAULTED

Percent change January - June 1998 over 1997, officers assaulted in the line of duty.

Suburban Areas	Rural Areas	Other Agencies ³	State Total
-7	-22	-33	-12

TABLE 7 - LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED

Number feloniously killed while in the line of duty, January - June 1997 and 1998.

Year	Suburban Areas	Rural Areas	State Total
1997	0	0	0
1998	0	0	0

¹The number of reported arsons has not been included in the total Crime Index. See back page for offense definitions.²Totals for either current and/or previous year contain 16 or less arrests.³Includes state law enforcement, campus police, state parks, airport police and ABC agencies.

TABLE 8 - CRIME INDEX FOR SELECTED CITIES AND COUNTIES¹

Number of offenses reported to city police and county sheriff/county police, January - June 1997 and 1998.

City Total % Change	YR	Total Index	Vio- lent	Prop- erty	Mur- der	Rape	Rob- bery	Agg. Aslt.	Bur- glary	Lar- ceny	MVT	Arson²
Asheville	97	2,476	278	2,198	2	16	79	181	446	1,588	164	17
-8	98	2,282	255	2,027	1	7	65	182	374	1,494	159	10
Cary	97	1,147	41	1,106	0	2	13	26	190	848	68	11
-7	98	1,071	67	1,004	0	4	26	37	173	777	54	4
Charlotte-Mecklenburg	97	25,569	4,760	20,809	28	176	1,470	3,086	4,866	13,975	1,968	199
-1	98	25,419	4,228	21,191	31	173	1,142	2,882	5,170	14,260	1,761	144
Durham	97	8,641	1,006	7,635	18	47	550	391	1,940	4,709	986	18
-6	98	8,145	842	7,303	12	40	495	295	1,952	4,482	869	20
Fayetteville	97	5,059	441	4,618	3	33	271	134	1,019	3,223	376	40
-17	98	4,210	326	3,884	7	29	199	91	906	2,720	258	19
Gastonia	97	3,324	466	2,858	6	22	126	312	602	2,117	139	33
+2	98	3,390	448	2,942	4	17	107	320	592	2,183	167	21
Goldsboro	97	1,865	253	1,612	1	8	61	183	328	1,197	87	6
+1	98	1,885	225	1,660	3	8	50	164	345	1,232	83	7
Greensboro	97	7,861	920	6,941	14	48	369	489	1,342	5,099	500	40
+9	98	8,551	955	7,596	12	39	378	526	1,794	5,241	561	41
Greenville	97	2,576	236	2,340	7	15	92	122	581	1,672	87	6
+25	98	3,226	323	2,903	0	19	109	195	756	2,020	127	5
High Point	97	3,827	459	3,368	8	17	183	251	910	2,229	229	29
-13	98	3,336	389	2,947	8	14	115	252	889	1,871	187	15
Jacksonville	97	1,207	152	1,055	0	11	26	115	225	791	39	0
-3	98	1,166	139	1,027	1	10	20	108	243	733	51	4
Raleigh	97	9,448	1,212	8,236	13	49	355	795	1,681	5,887	668	62
-11	98	8,431	1,027	7,404	12	55	402	558	1,518	5,292	594	50
Rocky Mount	97	2,601	298	2,303	3	11	101	183	509	1,697	97	11
+9	98	2,833	310	2,523	4	5	114	187	669	1,750	104	3
Wilmington	97	3,183	329	2,854	6	12	136	175	653	1,935	266	8
-1	98	3,162	433	2,729	8	17	184	224	722	1,758	249	10
Winston-Salem	97	8,740	1,036	7,704	6	74	289	667	1,760	5,370	574	74
-8	98	8,058	1,009	7,049	8	81	306	614	1,719	4,712	618	49
County Total % Change	YR	Total Index	Vio- lent	Prop- erty	Mur- der	Rape	Rob- bery	Agg. Aslt.	Bur- glary	Lar- ceny	MVT	Arson²
Buncombe Co. Sheriff	97	1,212	126	1,086	1	3	5	117	368	664	54	0
+2	98	1,241	124	1,117	1	3	10	110	357	680	80	0
Cumberland Co. Sheriff	97	3,604	357	3,247	8	26	95	228	1,107	1,953	187	61
-8	98	3,307	353	2,954	7	23	94	229	1,089	1,683	182	48
Davidson Co. Sheriff	97	1,064	48	1,016	0	3	9	36	389	556	71	4
-21	98	839	55	784	2	2	10	41	203	538	43	2
Forsyth Co. Sheriff	97	1,829	151	1,678	0	6	11	134	499	1,116	63	63
-3	98	1,771	112	1,659	2	14	14	82	542	1,034	83	31
Gaston Co. Police	97	1,124	155	969	6	4	14	131	328	567	74	26
-6	98	1,060	195	865	6	10	12	167	288	525	52	24
Guilford Co. Sheriff	97	1,627	137	1,490	4	8	27	98	459	950	81	22
-10	98	1,468	157	1,311	2	5	34	116	380	845	86	11
Randolph Co. Sheriff	97	1,054	57	997	1	9	7	40	325	619	53	6
+3	98	1,082	38	1,044	2	5	5	26	373	619	52	6
Robeson Co. Sheriff	97	820	108	712	10	3	8	87	395	281	36	5
+11	98	911	126	785	11	6	7	102	440	304	41	13
Rowan Co. Sheriff	97	832	67	765	3	10	6	48	339	397	29	4
+5	98	876	85	791	3	6	12	64	302	449	40	5
Wake Co. Sheriff	97	1,617	153	1,464	4	18	33	98	512	842	110	19
-2	98	1,584	168	1,416	1	24	24	119	537	759	120	17

¹Selected agencies are based on the 15 largest cities and the 10 largest counties reporting crime data.²The number of reported arsons has not been included in the total Crime Index.

North Carolina Population Groups and Areas

Core Cities: City law enforcement agencies with populations of 50,000 or more within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

Suburban Cities: City law enforcement agencies within a MSA exclusive of the core cities.

Suburban Counties: Sheriff's departments within a MSA.

Suburban Areas: All law enforcement agencies within a MSA.

Rural Centers: City law enforcement agencies with populations of 10,000 or more outside a MSA.

Rural Cities: City law enforcement agencies outside a MSA exclusive of the rural centers.

Rural Counties: Sheriff's departments outside a MSA.

Rural Areas: All law enforcement agencies outside a MSA.

Index Offense Definitions

Index Crime includes the total number of murders, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies and motor vehicle thefts. While arson is considered an Index crime, the number of arsons is not included in the Crime Index tables.

Violent Crime includes the offenses of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Murder - The willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another.

Forcible Rape - The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Assaults or attempts to commit rape by force are also included.

Robbery - The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

Aggravated Assault - An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or other means likely to produce death or serious bodily harm. Includes attempted assaults.

Property Crime includes the offenses of burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

Burglary - The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. Includes attempted forcible entry.

Larceny - The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another.

Motor Vehicle Theft - The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

Arson - Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without the intent to defraud.